

	INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF CHILD SERVICES CHILD WELFARE MANUAL	
	Chapter 11: Independent Living	Effective Date: TBD
	Section 2 : Eligibility for Chafee Independent Living Services	Version: 2

POLICY

[REVISED] The Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) has determined the following youth meet the eligibility requirements for Chafee Independent Living (IL) Services:

1. Youth ages **16-21 who are in foster care¹** as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) or adjudicated a delinquent with a [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) establishing the need for IL services. Referral for IL services is based on the type of placement of the youth (See separate policy, [11.1 Independent Living Services](#)); or
2. Youth age **18-21 who were formerly in foster care** for a minimum of six (6) months as a CHINS or adjudicated a delinquent after age 16 under the supervision of DCS and:
 - a. Had a [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#) establishing the need for independent living services, or
 - b. Were a “ward or in the custody of another state” if there is a verification of wardship and all eligibility criteria is met from the state of jurisdiction.

See separate policy, [11.8 Chafee Room and Board Services](#) for eligibility.

Code References

[42 USC 677: Chafee Foster Care Independence Program](#)

PROCEDURE

The Family Case Manager (FCM) will:

1. Determine whether eligible youth should be referred for Chafee services based on type of placement;
2. Determine eligibility for all CHINS and probation youth aged 16 to 21 in foster care and youth previously in foster care; and
3. Determine eligibility for youth aged 16 to 21 in relative care through an Interstate Compact for the Placement of Children (ICPC) when requested.

The Probation Officer will prepare and submit the IV-B referral form and [Delinquency Case Plan](#) for eligible probation youth to DCS when requesting Chafee IL services.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE

¹ Foster care is defined as 24-hour substitute care for children placed away from their parents/guardians/custodians and for whom the State agency has placement and care responsibility. Facilities that are outside the scope of foster care include, but are not limited to: detention facilities; psychiatric hospital acute care; forestry camps; or facilities that are primarily for the detention for children who are adjudicated delinquents.

Placement Type Determines Eligibility for Chafee IL Services

Chafee funding provides IL services for CHINS and probation youth in foster care, relative foster care, or other court approved placements, and for youth formerly in out-of-home care who have been reunified with the youth's parents and remain under the jurisdiction of the court and remain a CHINS or probation case.

Eligible youth in any placement type are eligible for Chafee IL transition services (See separate policy, [11.6 Transition Planning and Services](#)) at age 17 years and six (6) months and older for youth "aging" out of foster care. These services are to assist the youth in locating housing and employment prior to the youth's case being dismissed.

Interagency Agreement

DCS staff and Probation staff should be familiar with the [Interagency Agreement](#) regarding each agency's responsibilities related to probation wards.

FORMS AND TOOLS

1. [Service Referral Form](#) – Available in ICWIS
2. [Case Plan \(SF2956\)](#)– Also available in ICWIS
3. [Delinquency Case Plan](#)
3. [Chafee Foster Care Independence Program Service Standards](#)
4. [Interagency Agreement](#)

RELATED INFORMATION

N/A